Message Text

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USIA FOR IBS/NCA

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS MIL VS
SUBJ: VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT
DECEMBER 31, 1974 - JANUARY 7, 1975

PART I - SUMMARY

A. THE FOCUS OF FIGHTING THIS WEEK CENTERED IN MR-3, WHERE THE PHUOC LONG PROVINCE CAPITAL FINALLY FELL JANUARY 6 AFTER ALMOST FOUR WEEKS UNDER SUSTAINED ASSAULT, DURING WHICH IT RECEIVED HEAVY TANK, ARTILLERY AND GROUND ATTACKS. THE FIERCE NVA/VC ONSLAUGHT ALSO GAINED THEM THE RVNAF OUTPOST ON THE NUI BA DEN MOUNTAIN IN TAY NINH, BUT GVN FORCES WERE HOLDING WELL UNDER INTENSE COMMUNIST PRESSURE IN THE HOAI DUC AREA OF BINH TUY

B. THE INCIDENT AND GVN CASUALTY LEVELS COUNTRY WIDE WERE COMPARABLE TO A WEEK AGO, BUT NVA/VC KIA WERE SHARPLY HIGHER. THE RAIN KEPT MILITARY ACTIVITY AT A LOW LEVEL IN MR-1, WHILE THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN MR-2 WITH RVNAF FORCES EXTENDING THEIR COMMANDING POSITION IN HEAVY AN LAO VALLEY FIGHTING. DOWN IN THE DELTA THE FIGHTING LEVEL FOR THE THIRD WEEK RUNNING DECLINED SOMEWHAT.

C. THE RAIN WHICH PERSISTED THROUGH THE WEEK PUT A DAMPER ON MILITARY ACITIVITY IN MR-1; INDEED, AS A CONSEQUENCE VNAF FLEW NO COMBAT AIR SORTIES. IN THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS ARVN INFANTRY AND RANGER UNITS AGAIN REPULSED NVA/VC ATTACKS AND HELD THEI POSITIONS IN THE MO TAU AND NUI BONG MOUNTAIN AIREAS. SOUTH OF THE PASS, IN QUANG NGAI, NVA/VC FORCES STILL RESISTED ACTIVE GVN CLEARING OPERATIONS IN BINH SON AND SON TINH DISTRICTS.

D. ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WAS RELATIVELY LOW (63) IN MR-2, IT WAS OVER 50 PERCENT HIGHER THAN A WEEK AGO (40). THERE WAS HEAVY FIGHTING IN BINH DINH, WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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ARVN FORCES RETAKING HILLS 82 AND 174 AND EXTENDING WESTWARD THEIR ALREADY STRONG POSITION IN THE AN LAO VALLEY. THE 22ND ARVN DIVISION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTING PRE-EMPTIVE OPERATIONS IN BINH DINH AND INTENDS TO PURSUE THIS USEFUL TACTIC. THERE WAS SOME INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN KONTUM AND PLEIKU PROVINCES. GVN INTELLIGENCE CURRENTLY EXPECTS A COMMUNIST ATTACK ON KONTUM CITY IN FEBRUARY. VNAF RECON-

NAISSANCE SORTIES CONTINUE TO FIND TRAFFIC ALONG THE ENEMY INFILTRATION CORRIDORS IN THE AREA. RICE HARVEST PROTECTIVE OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL IN BINH THUAN PROVINCE, WHERE IMPROVED SECURITY HAS DENIED AN ESTIMATED 560 TONS OF PADDY TO COMMUNIST FORCES

E. THE INTENSITY OF THE CURRENT NVA/VC AGGRESSIVE ACTIVITY HAS BEEN MOST SHARPLY FELT IN MR-3, WHERE THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING REMAINED HIGH FOLLOWING A MONTH OF THE HEAVIEST BATTLING SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. IN THE HEAVY FIGHTING PRIOR TO THE FALL OF THE PHUOC LONG PROVINCE CAPITAL OF SONG BE, CORPS BELIEVES THAT PERHAPS OVER 20 NVA TANKS WERE DESTROYED. JANUARY 6 ALSO SAW THE LOSS OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SITE ON TOP OF BA RA MOUNTAIN. BUT GVN ARTILLERY DESTROYED THE SITE AFTER THEIR REGIONAL FORCES HAD WITHDRAWN. ARVN FORCES ARE NOW SUPPORTING THE BINH TUY TERRITORIALS IN THE BATTLE FOR HOAI DUC DISTRICT TOWN. THIS COMBINATION OF FOCES IS OPERATING OUITE EFFECTIVELY AND THE GVN BELIEVES IT CAN HOLD THE TOWN. OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY INCLUDED A NUMBER OF ROCKET ATTAKCS ON BIEN HOA AIRBASE, SEVERAL INTERDIC-TIONS OF Q.L. 20 TO DALAT, AND A CONTINUATION OF TERROR-IST INCIDENTS.

F. THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED DOWNWARDS THIS WEEK IN THE DELTA, BUT THE MR-4 COMMANDER EXPECTS A NEW SUPSWING WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. CORPS G-2 JUDGES THAT THE UNSEASONABLY BAD WEATHER HAS INTERFERRED WITH NVA/VC PLANS TO DATE. IN THE NORTHERN DELTA THE

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1680

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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PRINCIPLE ACTIVITY WAS ALONG LOCS (DISTRICT ROUTE 20 AND HIGHWAY 4) IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE. ADDITIONALLY, THE 23RD RIVER ASSAULT GROUP LOST TWO BOATS TO SAPPER ACTION IN MOC HOA. IN THE CENTRAL DELTA FIGHTING CONTINUES ON THE RISE IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, MAINLY IN THE RACH GIA AREA. IN THE SOUTH, BA XUYEN WAS AGAIN ACTIVE, BUT THINGS QUIETED DOWN IN BAC LIEU. IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE AN ARVN REGIMENT CONDUCTED A VERY SUCCESSFUL THREE-DAY OPERATION IN SOUTHERN DUC LONG DISTRICT AGAINST A COMMUNIST REGIMENT AND BATTALION, WITH 347 NVA/VC REPORTED KILLED.

PART II - ICCS

A. NO ICCS ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON THE CURRENT NVA/VC

OFFENSIVE BECAUSE OF THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN POSITION THAT THE COMMISSION CANNOT UNDERTAKE SUBSTANTIVE ACTION AS LONG AS THE TPJMC DOES NOT MEET. THE CHARGES OF THE INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN DELEGATIONS HAVE CONFERRED ON THE PROBLEM. GROUPS OF VIETNAMESE CITIZENS DEMONSTRATED PEACEFULLY AT ICCS HEADQUARTERS DEMANDING THAT THE COMMISSION TAKE ACTION.

B. ON JANUARY 2 GENERAL HIEP, CHIEF OF THE RVN TPJMC DELEGATION CALLED ON POLDEL ACTING ICCS CHAIRMAN TO DELIVER A LETTER, WHICH NOTED THE COMMISSION'S FAILURE TO ACT ON FOUR PROTEST NOTES INFORMING THE ICCS OF THE "PRG'S" BLATANT VIOLATION IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE. THE LETTER ASKED THE COMMISSION TO TAKE ACTION AT LEAST IN THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS, THAT IS, TO FORCE THE "PRG" TO END THE RANDOM SHELLINGS IN THE PROVINCE, AND TO ATTEND A TPJMC CHIEFS MEETING IMMEDIATELY TO DISCUSS SUPPLY PROCEDURES FOR THE POPULATION, AS WELL AS MEDICAL EVACUATION FOR THE INJURED.

C. THE USG ON JANUARY 6 CONTRIBUTED A FURTHER USDOL 1.578.000 TO THE ICCS BUDGET.

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PART III - FPJMT, TPJMC AND RELATED MATTERS

THE DRV/"PRG" BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT AND TPJMC CONTINUED INTO ITS TWENTY-NINTH WEEK.

PART IV - COMMUNIST MEDIA COMMENT

A. COMMUNISTS DENY GUILT FOR PHUOC LONG FIGHTING HANOI PROPAGANDISTS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO PORTRAY THE COMMUNISTS' SEIZURE OF THE PHUOC LONG PROVINCE CAPITAL AND ITS ENVIRONS AS A RESPONSE TO VARIOUS ALLEGED GVN DEPREDATIONS IN THAT AREA AND ELSEWHERE. THE PARTY NEWSPAPER, "NHAN DAN", CHARGED THAT IN A JANUARY 6 COMMENTARY THAT GVN FORCES HAD CONDUCTED "LAND-GRABBING" OPERATIONS IN PHUOC LONG, HAD PREVENTED "THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE" ALONG RIVERS AND ROADS IN THE AREA AND HAD USED "BA RA AIR BASE" FOR BOMBING AND RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS "DEEP INTO THE AIRSPACE OF THE "PRG"." THESE ACTS, SAID THE PAPER, JUSTIFY THE "FIRM RIPOSTES" BEING DEALT BY THE COMMUNISTS.

B. IN OTHER COMMENT, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE TRIED TO DOWN-PLAY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RECENT ACTIVITY WHILE IMPLYING THAT THE US AND GVN ATTEMPTING TO USE "THE SO-CALLED INTENSIFIED ATTACKS" TO PERSUADE CONGRESS TO VOTE MORE AID. STATEMENTS BY THE DRV AND "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRIES (ON JANUARY 4 AND 6, RESPECTIVELY) CONDEMNED THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S JANUARY 3 COMMENTS IN THIS VEIN, AVERRING THAT IT IS "UNIVERSAL KNOWLEDGE"THAT IT IS THE US THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE WAR.

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

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USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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USIA FOR IBS/NCA CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART V - MR-1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

I CORPS HQS BRIEFED 130 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS THIS WEEK, AN INCREASE FROM LAST WEEK'S 92. MILITARY ACTIVITY HAS REMAINED AT A LOW LEVEL LARGELY DUE TO THE RAIN WHICH HAS CONTINUED ALMOST UNABATED THROUGHOUT THE REPORTING PERIOD. FIGHTING NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS WAS RESTRICTED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO SOUTHERN THUA THIEN (P). SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS THE SITUATION REMAINED QUIET EXCEPT IN NORTHERN QUANG NGAI (P). GVN CASUALTIES WERE: 100 KIA, 338 WIA, 178 MIA; HOWEVER, BY THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD ALL BUT APPROXIMATELY 80 OF THE MIA HAD RETURNED TO GVN UNITS. VC/NVA LOSSES WERE: 184 KIA, 15 CAPTURED, O RETURNEES. NO COMBAT AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN BY VNAF.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN QUANG TRI (P). IN THUA THIEN (P), ARVN INFANTRY AND RANGER UNITS CONTINUE TO WITHSTAND SPORADIC VC/NVA GROUND ATTACKS AND ABF IN THE VICINITY OF MO TAU MOUNTAIN AND NUI BONG. ON JAN 6, A VC/NVA MINE WAS ACTIVATED IN THUA THIEN (P) WOUNDING 3 CIVILIANS. ON JAN 6, VC/NVA ENTERED A POPULATED AREA IN THUA THIEN (P) AND DISTRIBUTED LEAFLETS AND LETTERS URGING THE GVN VILLAGE AND HAMLET CADRE TO RETURN TO THE VC RANKS.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTIVITY IN QUANG NAM (P) AND QUANG TIN (P). ON JAN 2, A VC/NVA MINE WAS ACTIVATED IN QUANG NAM (P) RESULTING IN 1 CHILD KILLED, 2 CHILDREN WOUNDED. ON JAN 6, AN EXPLOSIVE WAS DETONATED AT THE HOME OF A NATIONAL POLICEMAN IN DANANG CITY, RESULTING IN THE INJURY OF 1 POLICEMAN, 2 CHILDREN, AND THE HOME 50 PERCENT DESTROYED. IN QUANG TIN (P), ON JAN 3, A SMALL UNGUARDED CULVERT WAS 90 PERCENT DAMAGED ON PROV ROUTE 533 CAUSING A TEMPORARY INTERRUPTION OF TRAFFIC. IN QUANG NGAI (P) VC/NVA PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL FORCE CONTINUED TO RESIST GVN CLEARING CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTIONS IN EASTERN BINH SON AND SON TINH DISTRICTS, KEEPING HEAVY PRESSURE ON REGULAR ARVN AND RF/PF UNITS IN THIS AREA. TWO ARVN RANGER BNS SUFFERED MODERATE CASUALTIES WHEN ATTACKED BY A VC MONTAGNARD BN AND OTHER VC/NVA FORCES IN THE AREA WEST OF NGHIA HANH (D). THE NVA/VC FORCES ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE REMAINED IN THE AREA. ON JAN 5, SMALL ARMS FIRE INTO A POPULATED AREA IN QUANG NGAI (P) RESULTED IN 1 CIVILIAN WOUNDED. ON JAN 2, VC/NVA ENTERED A CIVILIAN HOME NEAR QUANG NGAI AIRFIELD AND STOLE 20 KILOS OF RICE. ON DEC 31, VC SHELLED 2 RDS 82MM MORTAR INTO A POPULATED AREA IN

QUANG NGAI (P), WOUNDING 1 CIVILIAN. ON DEC 31, VC INFILTRATED INTO A HAMLET IN QUANG NGAI (P) AND KILLED 1 CIVILIAN AND WOUNDED 1 CIVILIAN.

4. ICCS:

NO OBSERVATIONS OR INVESTIGATIONS WERE REPORTED IN EITHER ICCS REGIONS 1 OR 2.

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ACTION EA-10

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SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 DPW-01 AID-05 OMB-01 /087 W ----- 090888

R 081000Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1682

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AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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USIA FOR IBS/NCA CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART VI - MR-2

1. SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR-2 INCREASED THIS WEEK. IN BINH DINH, HEAVY FIGHTING AT THE MOUTH OF THE AN LAO VALLEY RESULTED IN OVER 150 COMMUNIST KIA. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN KONTUM AND PLEIKU ALSO PICKED UP. SUCCESSFUL COMPANY-SIZED PRE-EMPTIVE OPERATIONS IN QUANG DUC HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT. EFFORTS BY BINH THUAN SECTOR TO PROTECT THE FINAL STAGES OF THE RICE HARVEST IN THIEN GIAO AND HAM THUAN DISTRICTS HAVE RESULTED IN AN ESTIMATED 560 TONS OF PADDY BEING DENIED TO THE VC.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

I. COMMUNIST-INITIATED INCIDENTS:

TOTAL INCIDENTS HIGHLAND COASTAL ZONE

LAST WEEK: 40 13 PERCENT 87 PERCENT
THIS WEEK: 63 15 PERCENT 85 PERCENT
BINH DINH WAS THE MOST ACTIVE WITH 38 INCIDENTS.

II. GVN-INITIATED INCIDENTS:

LAST WEEK: 32 THIS WEEK: 58

III. COMMUNIST PERSONNEL AND WEAPONS LOSSES:

PERSONNEL WEAPONS

KIA CIA RETURNEE CS INDV TOTAL WPNS

LAST WEEK: 95 4 0 2 GER 36 THIS WEEK: 348 2 2 23 82 105

IV. GVN PERSONNEL AND WEAPONS LOSSES:

KIA WIA MIA CS INDV TOTAL WPNS

LAST WEEK: 24 49 10 0 9 9 THIS WEEK: 37 106 7 0 10 10

V. GVN ARTILLERY AMMO UTILIZATION (ROUNDS):

LAST WEEK: 6,636 THIS WEEK: 18,880 CONFIDENTIAL

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VI. GVN AIR OPERATIONS (SORTIES):

TAC AIR VR HELICOPTER

LAST WEEK: 31 96 622 THIS WEEK: 149 183 1,112

2. BINH DINH: FIGHTING IN BINH DINH INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY THIS WEEK. THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL CLASHES OCCURRED ON THE APPROACHES TO THE AN LAO VALLEY TO THE WEST OF BONG SON CITY, WHERE THE 42ND ARVN REGT EXTENDED ITS POSITION WESTWARD AT THE EXPENSE OF THE 141ST NVA REGT. IN A SERIES OF ENGAGEMENTS ON JAN 2, 3, AND 4, DURING WHICH THE 42ND REGT RETOOK HILLS 82 (BR 815948) AND 174 (BR 810967), ARVN FORCES KILLED 156 COMMUNISTS AT THE MOUTH OF THE AN LAO, WHILE SUFFERING 11 KIA, CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORTS, THE 141ST REGT CONTINUES TO BE THE MAIN NVA FORCE AT THE MOUTH OF THE AN LAO, ALTHOUGH ONE BN OF THE 12TH REGT HAS NOW ARRIVED THERE AND OTHERS ARE EXPECTED. TAM QUAN, PHU MY, AND PHU CAT DISTRICTS ALSO WERE THE SCENE OF CONSIDERABLE MILITARY ACTIVITY. ON JAN 3, THE VC AMBUSHED AN AMMUNITION SUPPLY CONVOY OF THE 22ND ARVN DIV ON QL-1 IN PHU CAT (BR 888575), DESTROYING 4 TRUCKS, DAMAGING 3 OTHERS, AND SETTING OFF 640 ROUNDS OF 105 AND 155 AMMUNITION. THE BULK OF THE 47TH ARVN REGT HAS SWAPPED LOCATIONS WITH MOST OF THE 41ST ARVN REGT. WITH THE FORMER NOW IN AN KHE AND THE LATTER IN PHU MY DISTRICT. THE 22ND ARVN DIV PLANS TO CONTINUE PRE-EMPTIVE OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE AND IS ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE MORALE AND DISCIPLINE, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE COMMUNISTS' WINTER OFFENSIVE.

3. KONTUM: PLEIKU: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN KONTUM AND PLEIKU ALSO PICKED UP SOMEWHAT. IN KONTUM, RANGER UNITS KILLED 32 COMMUNISTS WHILE SUFFERING 3 KIA IN CONTACTS TO THE NORTH OF THE CITY. VNAF RECONNAISSANCE PLANES CONTINUE TO SPOT ENEMY CONVOYS ON INFILTRATION CORRIDORS. TACTICAL AIR SORTIES WERE CALLED IN AGAINST ONE CONVOY 42 KM WEST OF KONTUM, RESULTING IN THE DESTRUCTION OF 17 VEHICLES. GVN INTELLIGENCE NOW BEGIEVES THE COMMUNISTS

MAY LAUNCH AN ATTACK ON KONTUM CITY IN FEBRUARY. IN PLEIKU, COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN THE FORM OF SHELLINGS AND HARASSING FIRE INCREASED. DURING A GROUND CONTACT 15 KM NORTHWEST OF THANH AN, THE 2ND CO, 2ND BN OF THE 44TH REGT KILLED 13 COMMUNISTS. AND ON JAN 4, A 6-MAN TEAM FROM THE 23RD ARVN IV WAS AIRLIFTED TO A POINT 50 KM SOUTHWEST OF PHU NHON (YU 907863), WHERE IT CUT A COMMUNIST POL PIPELINE PRIOR TO CONFIDENTIAL

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BEING SUCCESSFULLY AIRLIFTED OUT.

- 4. QUANG DUC: PLANNED ARVN BATTALION-SIZED PRE-EMPTIVE OPERATIONS DUC LAP AND KIEN DUC DISTRICTS OF QUANG DUC HAVE NOT MATERIALIZED, ALTHOUGH COMPANY-SIZED OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT. SOME 108 MORE WAR VICTIMS MADE THEIR WAY FROM PHUOC LONG TO QUANG DUC THIS WEEK, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES TO 456.
- 5. BINH THUAN: COMMUNIST HARASSMENT ACTIVITIES CONTINUED.
 HOWEVER, BINH THUAN SECTOR INCTIATED AN OPERATION ON DEC 30
 TO PROTECT THE FINAL STAGES OX THE RICE HARVEST AND TO IMPROVE
 OVERALL SECURITY IN THIEN GIAO AND HAM THUAN DISTRICTS -COMMUNIST FORCES HAD PREVENTED MANY FARMERS FROM REMOVING THE
 HARVESTED PADDY
 FROM THEIR FIELDS. THUS FAR, THE IMPROVED
 SECURITY HAS DENIED TO THE COMMUNIST AN ESTIMATED 560 TONS
 OF PADDY. COMMUNIST LOSSES AS A RESULT OF THE OPERATION WERE
 REPORTED AS 34 KIA, WHILE GVN LOSSES WERE 1 KIA AND 19 WIA.

6. OTHER: TWO BNS OF THE 53RD ARVN REGT HAVE BEEN MOVED FROM QUANG DUC TO DARLAC. NVA ATTACKS
ON TIMBER TRUCKS IN TUYEN
DUC CONTINUED. ON JAN 1, FIVE TIMBER TRUCKS WERE DESTROYED
5 KM NORTHWEST OF DUC TRONG DISTRICT HQS, AND ON JAN 2 AN ADDITIONAL TRUCK WAS BURNED MIDWAY BETWEEN DUC TRONG AND DON DUONG DISTRICT HQS. THE MAJORITY OF THE RESETTLERS FROM QUANG LAM CAMP IN LAM DONG, WHO EARLIER HAD FLED THE CAMP BECAUSE OF VC HARASSMENT. HAVE RETURNED.

7. ICCS: QUIESCEN	ľΓ.
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USIA WASHDC

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AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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PART VII - MR-3

- 1. THE PHUOC LONG CAPITAL FELL TO COMMUNIST FORCES ON JANUARY 6. THIS IS THE FIRST PROVINCE CAPITAL TO BE CAPTURED BY THE NVA/VC SINCE THE CEASEFIRE AND MARKS A HIGH POINT IN THE INTENSE COMBAT EXPERIENCED IN MR-3 THIS WEEK. ON THE SAME DAY THE RVNAF OUTPOST ATOP NUI BA DEN, WHOSE DEFENDERS HAD BEEN WITHOUT FOOD FOR FIVE DAYS, WAS ALSO LOST. NVA SHELLING AND GROUND ATTACKS HAVE CONTINUED IN BINH TUY'S NORTHERN DISTRICT OF HOAI DUC THROUGHOUT THE WEEK BUT GVN FORCES, REINFORCED BY ELEMENTS OF THE 18TH DIV, HELD FIRM AND BEGAN WIDENING THEIR AREA OF CONTROL AS THE WEEK ENDED.
- 2. MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT A HIGH LEVEL THIS REPORTING PERIOD FOLLOWING A MONTH OF THE HEAVIEST FIGHTING SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. INCIDENTS TOTALED 348 FOR THIS EIGHT-DAY REPORTING PERIOD COMPARED TO 309 LAST WEEK. TAY NINH WAS AGAIN HIGHEST WITH 68 INCIDENTS (58 LAST WEEK). PHUOC LONG HAD 40 (26), BINH TUY 51 (29), AND BINH DUONG REPORTED 45 (51). MR-3 HQS REPORTED 68 GROUND CONTACTS, 163 ATTACKS BY FIRE, AND 25 COMBINED GROUND AND ABF'S. THERE WERE 14 MININGS AND 78 OTHER MISCELLANEOUS INCIDENTS.
- 3. THE NVA/VC REPORTEDLY FIRED 7,088 ABF ROUNDS (NOT INCLUDING TOTAL EXPENDITURES IN PHUOC LONG OR NUI BA DEN, WHICH ARE UNKNOWN). THIS TOTAL INCLUDES 6,409 MORTARS, 365 ROCKETS AND 314 ARTILLERY ROUNDS. ARVN EXPENDED 30,592 ARTILLERY ROUNDS, REMAINING ON A LEVEL WITH LAST WEEK'S 30,284. THE THIRD AIR DIV IN BIEN HOA FLEW 275 FIXED-WING SORTIES AND 426 HELICOPTER GUNSHIP MISSIONS. DURING THE SIX DAY SEIGE OF PHUOC LONG VNAF SORTIES FROM MR-2 AND MR-4 JOINED THIRD AIR DIV STRIKES PROVIDING A TOTAL OF 60 TO 100 SORTIES A DAY IN SUPPORT OF THE PHUOC LONG DEFENDERS.
- 4. GVN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 100 KIA, 486 WIA, AND 55 MIA. NVA/VC LOSSES WERE PUT AT 155 KIA, THREE CIA, AND NO RALLIERS. IN ADDITION, VNAF REPORTED 498 NVA/VC KILLED BY AIR. THESE CASUALTIES DO NOT INCLUDE TOTAL LOSSES IN PHUOC LONG OR ON BA DEN MOUNTAIN, WHICH ARE UNAVAILABLE.
- 5. COMMUNIST FORCES COMPLETED THEIR TAKEOVER IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE CONFIDENTIAL

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JANUARY 6 WHEN THE PROVINCE CAPITAL OF SONG BE (ALSO KNOWN AS PHUOC BINH CITY), AFTER SIX DAYS OF WITHSTANDING NUMEROUS TANK-LED GROUND ASSAULTS SUPPORTED BY HEAVY BOMBARDMENTS OF MORTAR, RECOILLESS RIFLE, ROCKET AND ARTILLERY FIRE, FINALLY FELL.

THE SOME 1,200 DEFENDERS, WITH THE AID OF VNAF AIRSTRIKES, INFLICTED HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE NVA FORCES MADE UP OF THE 141ST AND 165TH NVA REGTS (7TH NVA DIV) SUPPORTED BY THE 271ST INDEPENDENT NVA REGT. MR-3 HQS ESTIMATES THAT BETWEEN 17 AND 22 NVA TANKS WERE DESTROYED BEFORE SONG BE WAS FINALLY OVERWHELMED. ON DEC 31 PHUOC BINH DISTRICT TOWN HAD BECOME THE FIFTH DISTRICT IN MR-3 TO FALL DURING THE CURRENT DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN AFTER IT

RECEIVED A 400 ROUND ABF AND GROUND ATTACK SUPPORTED BY TANKS. ON THE SAME DAY REGIONAL FORCES ATOP BA RA MOUNTAIN WERE FORCED TO WITHDRAW UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM COMMUNIST ABF'S AND GROUND ATTACKS. THE COMMUNICATION SITE ATOP THE MOUNTAIN WAS DESTROYED BY FRIENDLY ARTILLERY.

6. THE RVNAF OUTPOST ATOP BA DEN MOUNTAIN IN TAY NINH ALSO FELL JANUARY 6. AFTER SUCCESSFUL HELICOPTER RESUPPLY EFFORTS ON DEC 29 AND 30, FURTHER ATTEMPTS AT RESUPPLYING THE BELEAGUERED TERRITORIAL FORCES FAILED. RADIO CONTACT WITH THE DEFENDERS WAS LOST LATE JAN 6, AFTER THEY HAD BEEN WITHOUT FOOD FOR FIVE DAYS. AT 0100 HOURS JAN 7, THE GVN DIRECTED ARTILLERY FIRE AGAINST THE MOUNTAIN IN AN ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE OUTPOST NOW IN COMMUNIST HANDS. LATE REPORTS STATE THAT THE COMMANDER AND 59 OF THE DEFENDERS OF NUI BA DEN HAVE REESTABLISHED CONTACT FROM A POINT THREE KMS NORTHWEST OF THE MOUNTAIN. FOURTEEN DEFENDERS ARE

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 DPW-01 AID-05 OMB-01 /087 W ----- 091929

R 081000Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1684

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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REPORTED TO HAVE SAFELY REACHED GVN LINES. ON THE MORNING OF JAN 6, AN F-5A, WHILE FLYING IN SUPPORT OF RESUPPLY EFFORTS AT NUI BA DEN, RECEIVED HEAVY GROUND FIRE AND WAS SHOT DOWN. THE AIRCRAFT WAS DESTROYED BUT THE PILOT MANAGED TO EJECT SAFELY. TAY NINH CITY RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 76 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY AND ROCKET FIRE IN THREE SEPARATE ABF'S JAN 6 WHICH LEFT ONE DEAD, EIGHT WOUNDED AND THE SECTOR ARTILLERY COMMAND POST DESTROYED. ABF'S WERE ALSO CONDUCTED AT SEVERAL ARVN AND TERRITORIAL MANNED OUTPOSTS SURROUNDING THE PROVINCE CAPITAL, THE MOST NOTABLE ABF BEING A 100 ROUND BARRAGE AT TRANG LON BASE, FIVE KMS NORTHWEST OF THE CITY.

7. IN BINH TUY THE COMMUNIST DRIVE TO TAKE HOAI DUC DISTRICT TOWN INTENSIFIED THIS WEEK. THIS REPORTING PERIOD SAW OVER 3,300 ROUNDS OF MIXED ORDNANCE AND SEVERAL GROUND ATTACKS LAUNCHED AT THE DISTRICT TOWN. CASUALTIES THROUGHOUT THESE ATTACKS WERE 11 KILLED AND 45 WOUNDED ON THE GOVERNMENT SIDE AND 23 NVA/VC KILLED. TWO BNS OF THE 43RD REGT (18TH ARVN DIV) ARE NOW IN THE TOWN SUPPORTING BINH TUY'S TERRITORIAL FORCES. GVN MILITARY LEADERS EXPECT THE DISTRICT CAPITAL TO REMAIN UNDER GVN CONTROL AND ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE SITUATION THERE AND IN THE SURROUNDING AREAS. THE TOWN IS PRESENTLY RECEIVING ARTILLERY SUPPORT FROM 105MM AND 155MM HOWITZERS DIRECTED BY TWO ADDITIONAL BNS OF THE 18TH DIV LOCATED TO THE NORTHWEST.

8. BIEN HOA AIRBASE WAS THE TARGET OF NVA/VC GUNNERS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. A TOTAL OF 83 ROUNDS OF 122MM ROCKETS LANDED ON THE BASE AND THE ADJACENT CIVILIAN AREA. RESULTS OF THESE ATTACKS WERE FOUR KILLED AND 34 WOUNDED, TWO HELICOPTERS, ONE L-19 AND

THREE F-5E AIRCRAFT, AND NINE HELICOPTER ENGINES DAMAGED PLUS ONE MAINTENANCE SHOP DESTROYED AND A RADIO REPAIR SHOP DAMAGED.

9. SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN GIA DINH PROVINCE. ON JAN 2 A HAMLET OFFICE, EIGHT KMS NORTH OF TAN SON NHUT AIRBASE, WAS ATTACKED IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS BY THE COMMUNISTS. THIS ATTACK LEFT 10 KILLED AND SEVEN WOUNDED ON THE GOVERNMENT SIDE WHILE NVA/VC LOSSES ARE UNKNOWN. THE NHA BE AREA, TEN KMS SOUTHEAST OF SAIGON HAD TWO BRIDGES DESTROYED, ONE ON DEC 31 AND CONFIDENTIAL

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THE OTHER ON JAN 2. IN THE SAME AREA ON JAN 3, A MINE DRIFTED AGAINST THE STERN OF THE SS HYDRIA, A BRITISH VESSEL, DAMAGING HER SLIGHTLY. THE PHU LAM RADAR STATION AND A NEIGHBORING HAMLET 2.5 KMS WEST OF THE CHOLON AREA OF SAIGON WERE HIT BY 12 ROCKETS ON JAN 6. THE RADAR STATION WAS NOT DAMAGED BUT FOUR CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND SIX OTHERS WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK.

10. IN LONG KHANH, QL 20 (ROAD TO DALAT) WAS INTERDICTED SIX TIMES DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD. THE MOST SERIOUS INTERDICTION WAS A MORTAR ATTACK ON AN ARVN AMMUNITION CONVOY THREE KMS SOUTHWEST OF DINH QUAN. CASUALTIES WERE ONE WOUNDED AND AN AMMUNITION TRUCK DESTROYED. TERRORISM CONTINUED IN THE PROVINCE CAPITAL OF XUAN LOC THIS WEEK WHEN AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE PLANTED AT A NEWSSTAND EXPLODED ON DEC 31 KILLING ONE AND WOUNDING FOUR.

11. ICCS: THERE WAS ONE OBSERVATION IN ICCS REGION V THIS WEEK, THE AFTERNOON OF JAN 2. THE INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN DELEGATIONS OBSERVED THE IMPACT SITES OF ROCKETS WHICH WERE FIRED AT BIEN HOA AIRBASE JANUARY 1 AND 2, BUT WHICH LANDED IN CIVILIAN AREAS KILLING FOUR CIVILIANS AND WOUNDING 12. REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL FOUR DELEGATIONS RECEIVED A SMALL GROUP OF PERSONS JAN 6 DELIVERING A PETITION PROTESTING THE COMMUNIST ATTACKS IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE. THE GROUP REPRESENTED APPROXIMATELY 100 PEOPLE WHO HAD GATHERED AT ICCS HEADQUARTERS IN BIEN HOA TO QUIETLY DEMONSTRATE AGAINST COMMUNIST AGGRESSION IN PHUOC LONG. THE CROWD DISPERSED WITHOUT INCIDENT

PART VIII -. MR-4

1. MILITARY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL SECURITY: LEVEL OF DELTA FIGHTING CONTINUED ITS GRADUAL DECLINE FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE WEEK. CORPS COMMANDER BELIEVES NEXT UPSURGE WILL BEGIN JAN 9-10, WITH FIGHTING AGAIN FOCUSED ON CHUONG THIEN AND KIEN TUONG PROVINCES, AND RENEWED TARGETING OF LOC'S. ONE SPECIFIC TARGET HE MENTIONED WAS CAU TRANG BRIDGE ON HIGHWAY 4 IN SOUTHERN PHONG DINH PROVINCE, WHICH WAS LAST SERIOUSLY THREATENED IN MAY. MR4 G2 REPORTS THAT UNSEASONABLE AND VARIABLE WEATHER IS INTERFERING WITH VC/NVA PLANS AND LIMITING HIS PROJECTIONS OF THEIR INTENTIONS TO

AS LITTLE AS FOUR DAYS. FOR THE EIGHT-DAY REPORTING PERIOD, CORPS REPORTS 426 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS (541 FOR SEVEN CONFIDENTIAL

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DAYS LAST WEEK) CONSISTING OF 19 GROUND ATTACKS (60), 2 INFILTRATIONS (2), 280 ABF'S (352), 105 HARASSMENTS (91), 9 SABOTAGE (16), AND 11 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (19). GVN LOSSES WERE 159 KIA (199), 721 WIA (925), 176 MIA (72), AND 17 CREW-SERVED (13) AND 339 INDIVIDUAL (293) WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 961 VC/NVA KILLED (594), 51 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (35), AND 55 CREW-SERVED (33) AND 352 INDIVIDUAL (177) WEAPONS SEIZED.

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 DPW-01 AID-05 OMB-01 /087 W ----- 091843

R 081000Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1685

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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(B) NORTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE INCREASED SLIGHTLY, WITH DISTRICT ROUTE 20 AND HIGHWAY 4 STILL SUBJECT TO SNIPINGS AND MININGS. MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THESE WAS EARLY MORNING DETONATION OF THREE MINES ON HIGHWAY 4 IN CAI BE (D) WHICH RESTRICTED TRAFFIC TO ONE-WAY TRAVEL. ONLY DAYTIME INCIDENT ON HIGHWAY 4 WAS ALSO IN CAI BE (D) WHERE ARVN ARMORED CAR RECEIVED MG FIRE AT NOON WITH NO CASUALTIES TAKEN, ACTIVITY DROPPED IN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE, WITH ONLY ONE GROUND ATTACK REPORTED AGAINST AN OB 6 KM NE OF HONG NGU DISTRICT TOWN; NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED ON EITHER SIDE. MY AN, KIEN VAN AND CAO LANH DISTRICTS REMAINED QUIET AS VC/NVA ARE REPORTEDLY ENGAGED IN COLLECTING RICE AND RICE TAXES. IN KIEN TUONG RPVONINCE, MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY CONSISTED OF ABF'S: 57X85MM ROUNDS ON THE PROVINCE CAPITAL KILLED ONE CIVILIAN AND WOUNDED TWO SOLDIERS; AN EARLIER ABF (6X122MM) ON MOC HOA WOUNDED 4, INCLUDING 2 NATIONAL POLICE; AND 41X82MM ROUNDS ON TUYEN NHON DISTRICT TOWN WOUNDED 2 SAILORS. TWO BOATS OF THE 23RD RIVER ASSAULT GROUP WERE BLOWN UP BY WATER SAPPERS IN MOC HOA, LEAVING ONE SAILOR DEAD AND ONE MISSING. IN CHAU DOC PROVINCE, ESTIMATED 30VC INFILTRATED TWO HAMLETS OF THOI SON (V), TINH BIEN (D) LEAVING 2 PSDF DEAD, 7 WOUNDED, AND 6 MISSING. ACTIVITY ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE CONSISTED OF SMALL-UNIT RF/PF CONTACTS, MOST OF WHICH WERE WITHIN 5 KM OF THE CAMBODIAN BORDER IN TAN CHAU, AN PHU, AND TINH BIEN DISTRICTS.

(C) CENTRAL DELTA: KIEN HOA PROVINCE WAS FARILY QUIET WITH MOST INCIDENTS BEING HARASSMENTS AND NO THREAT TO GVN POSITIONS. HOWEVER, THE PROVINCE TOWN WAS AGAIN MORTARED BY 5X120MM ROUNDS WHICH WOUNDED 5 CIVILIANS. VINH LONG PROVINCE

WAS ALSO QUIET, BUT THE PROVINCE CAPITAL WAS HIT BY ONE 107MM ROCKET IN THE FIRST SUCH INCIDENT IN THE CITY SINCE PRIOR TO THE CEASEFIRE; ONCE CIVILIAN WAS WOUNDED. ON THE LAST MORNING OF THE REPORTING PERIOD, A CLAYMORE MINE EXPLODED IN THE TAM BINH DISTRICT MARKET KILLING THREE CIVILIANS AND INJURING 21. A HIGH INCIDENCE OF BOOBY-TRAP CASUALTIES (20 OF A TOTAL 51 INCIDENTS) INDICATES GVN FORCES ARE MOVING AROUND, BUT VC/NVA UNITS ARE AVOIDING CONTACT. VINH BINH PROVINCE HAS DEVELOPED A PLAN TO RETAKE 18 VILLAGES LOST TO THE OTHER SIDE. TOTAL CONFIDENTIAL

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FORCE OF 39 PF OCCUPIED FIRST VILLAGE ON LIST, BUT HELD IT ONLY OVERNIGHT BEFORE WITHDRAWING. IT IS UNLIKELY THE PLAN CAN BE IMPLEMENTED UNLESS ADDITIONAL TROOPS ARE COMMITTED TO THE PROVINCE. ONE MORE OB THIS WEEK WAS ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE, AND VILLAGES IN TRA CU AND TIEU CAN DISTRICTS CAME UNDER HEAVY MORTAR FIRE WHICH KILLED ONE CIVILIAN. RF HAD TWO SIGNIFICANT CONTACTS IN CAU NGANG (D), KILLING 26 VC WHILE SUSTAINING 2 RF KILLED AND 2 WOUNDED. KIEN GIANG PROVINCE REPORTS A CONTINUED INCREASE IN FIGHTING WITH MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY NW AND NE OF RACH GIA. TWO RF COMPANIES WITH 2 APC'S AND A 9TH ARVN DIVISION BATTALION RAN INTO HEAVY RESISTANCE DURING A CLEARING OPERATION NEAR HON SOC MOUNTAIN IN SOUTHERN KIEN LUONG (D); SOME OF THE UNITS WERE REPORTEDLY SCATTERED, BUT RESULTS OF THE CONTACT ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE DUE TO CONTINUED HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE AREA. AN RF OB AND ARTILLERY POSITION ON HON SOC WAS OVERRUN EARLIER IN THE WEEK. TO THE SOUTH. A VNAF HELICOPTER TRANSPORTING RF WENT DOWN DUE TO MECHANICAL FAILURE IN HIEU LE (D) WITH 12 KILLED AND 44 INJURED. PHONG DINH PROVINCE REPORTS ONLY ONE SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT: 8X107MM ROCKETS WERE FIRED AT BINH THUY (TRA NOC) AIRFIELD. ALL ROUNDS LANDED AROUND THE BASE PERIMETER CAUSING NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE. (D) SOUTHERN DELTA: BA XUYEN PROVINCE REMAINED ACTIVE WITH THREE OB'S OVERRUN, IN NGA NAM, KE SACH AND HOA TU DISTRICTS. HOA TU DISTRICT HQ WAS SHELLED WITH 30 MORTAR ROUNDS WHICH WOUNDED 2 SOLDIERS, AND THANH TRI DISTRICT HQ WAS SHELLED WITH NO CASUALTIES. ACTIVITY IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE DROPPED, BUT VC PRESSURE CONTINED IN GIA RAI (D) WHERE ONE GVN OB WAS ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE, A WATCHTOWER ON HIGHWAY 4 WAS OVERRUN, A NEWLY BUILT CONCRETE BRIDGE ON HIGHWAY 4 WAS DAMAGED BY SAPPERS, AND THE DISTRICT TOWN WAS MORTARED FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN A MONTH. IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE, 33RD RGT/21ST ARVN DIVISION COMPLETED 3-DAY OPERATION IN SOUTHERN DUC LONG (D) WHERE THEY CONTACTED D-2 REGIMENT AND 2311 ARTILLERY BATTALION. 347 VC/NVA WERE REPORTED KILLED IN THE OPERATION. CHUONG THIEN WAS FAIRLY QUIET THE REST OF THE WEEK, EXCEPT FOR 3 SHELLINGS OF KIEN HUNG DISTRICT TOWN WHICH CAUSED NO CASUALTIES. PRESSURE WAS CONTINUED ON VI DUC (V) BY AN ATTACK ON AN OB ALONG THE ONLY CANAL BETWEEN VI DUC AND THE PROVINCE CAPITAL. IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE, ONE BATTALION OF THE 31ST REGIMNT/

21ST ARVN DIVISION WAS REDEPLOYED TO TAN HUNG (V), DAM DOI (D), WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE SINCE PF OB'S CONFIDENTIAL

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ALONG THE BAY HAP RIVER WERE ABANDONED LAST MONTH. ONE OB IN DAM DOI WAS REOCCUPIED AND ANOTHER IS BEING RECONSTRUCTED. OPERATIONS ARE UNDERWAY ALONG THE BAY HAP IN AN ATTEMPT TO REOPEN IT FOR RESUPPLY AND NORMAL COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC.

2. ICCS AFFAIRS: ICCS REGION VI THIS WEEK RECEIVED 15
PROTESTS OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. INDONESIAN PARTY IN
MOC HOA CONDUCTED THE ONLY "OBSERVATION" WHICH CONCERNED
THE BLOWING UP OF A BOAT SE OF MOC HOA (LAST WEEK'S
SITREP). REGION VII LAST WEEK RECEIVED 12 LETTERS CONTAINING
34 COMPLAINTS OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, BUT MADE NO "OBSERVATIONS".
REGION VII REPORT FOR THIS WEEK IS NOT YET AVAILABLE.
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